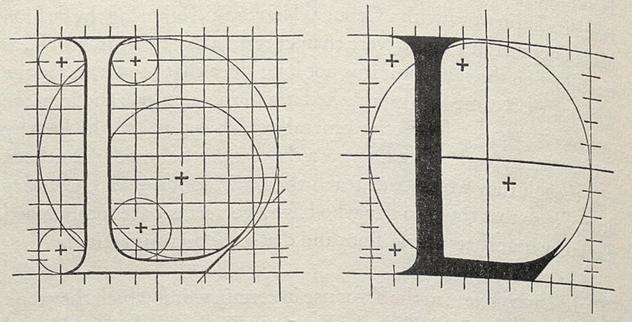
which name is pronounced in Italian as if the C were aspirated, and as if it should be spelled thus: *Beatriche.* I say this in passing, to show that K should be pronounced sharp and hard, and C a little soft, almost as if it were aspirated.

THE Greeks never aspirate their Kappa, but they have another letter which carries its own aspirate, and is called *Chi*—equal to C & H; so that if they wished to write, *Cha, che, chi, cho* or *chu* they wrote Χα, Χε, Χι, Χο, and Χου, which I leave for keen minds to meditate upon.



THE letter L here drawn is ten units in height and seven and a half in breadth, for the fashioning whereof five turns of the compass are required; and I have made five crosses where the point of the compass must be set, to describe them.

SOme ancient writers—as I have said above in speaking of the letter E—drew it with only four centres, making a right angle at the foot of the upright leg, inside, as I have shown in the figure in which it is drawn without lines and in black.

LAs I have heretofore said & shown in the chapter on the letter E, is derived from E by taking away the two upper horizontal arms. L, says Martianus Capella, *lingua palatoque dulcescit.* That is to say, L is pronounced with the tongue and the palate, which is the upper concavity of the mouth, with a soft outbreathing of the voice; by which is meant its shape, which is a perpendicular line forming at its foot an angle upon which it rests.* Priscian, in his first book, in the chapter, *De Commutatione Literarum,* says that Pliny was of opinion that L had three sounds in pronunciation. Priscian's words are these: *L triplicem,*

* *En la quelle chose est entendue sa figure, qui est d'une ligne perpendiculaire faisant a son talon une angle sus le quel ille est assize.—I cannot interpret this otherwise than as suggesting some resemblance between the shape of the letter and its sound; but it seems very far from clear.*

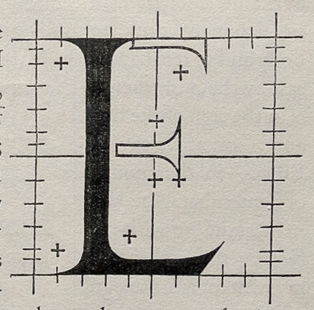
*vt Plinio videtur, sonum habet: Exilem, quando geminatur secundo loco posita, vt ille, Metellus; plenum, quando finit nomina vel syllabas, et quando habet ante se in eadem syllaba aliquam consonantem, vt Sol, sylua, flauus, clarus. Medium autem in alijs, vt lectus, lecta, lectum.** That is to say, 'L has a threefold sound, as it seems to Pliny. The first is thin and simply soft; and this is when it is doubled, as in *Ille, Metellus;* the second is a full sound, and this is when it ends a word or syllable, or when it has a consonant before it, in the same syllable, as in *Sol, sylua, flauus, clarus;* the third and last is a medium sound, and this is when it is placed otherwise in syllables or words than when it has the first two sounds.' He who would pronounce it properly must utter it as if he meant to say this syllable—EL.

* I, VII, 38. *Again there is a slight variation from the original.*

And hereupon I propose in this place to set forth the proper and true pronunciation of all the letters of the alphabet, wherein I see many persons go astray, when they say, *A, boy, coy, doy;* whereas they should say, *A, be, che, de;* as if the names of the letters, except the vowels, were written like syllables. Which thing the better to explain and enforce, I will set down here their names & pronunciations in syllables, as follows. *A, be, che, de, E, ef, ge, ha, I, ka, el, em, en, O, pe, quu, er, es, te, ix, ypsilon;* or if you choose to say them otherwise, say them in Greek. And the last, which is *Zita,* will be pronounced *esd.*† The error in the above-mentioned absurd pronunciation is due to I know not what schoolmasters, both in cities and villages, who go about trying to teach others when they themselves are not taught as they should be. It is a great shame to meddle with a thing without a sound foundation and complete knowledge.

† *Presumably a misprint for ze, or zed.*

TO show clearly that L should be pronounced like the syllable *el,* I say again that it is made from the E, and that its pronunciation partakes of that of E, since it is derived from it; which, although I have already shown it in the chapter on E, I will here show again, to the end that you may readily recognize my words as true. And this is proved by the figure herewith repeated & put before you, in which I have drawn the two upper horizontal arms of the E a little apart, thus leaving the L complete and perfect.



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